Chapter. 101

Swimming Man ②

Elizabeth and Harunobu-kun.

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

—If I lose today,
of which the top 2 rise in class.
We have 10 matches a year
There's a total of 24 people in B2.
平常心是道
ウミノヤ
おしる粉
つぶ入り
将棋会館
or I'll lose my chance at going up a class.
I'll have to win every remaining match in this period

Kiriyama retreated his Gin.
he probably anticipated that I would use my kei.
— But
At the end of a 2-hour long think...
by pulling back a piece he's already moved forward,
even if he's thinking about what'll happen further down the line, he's still putting himself 'a move behind'...
He's like this at 19 years old...?
— But this boy is something else.
I consider myself a pretty patient player,

SFX: SUH... TASHIH
—He has a careful and probably very quiet shogi game...
—And he's stopping to think again here...?
SFX: PASHIHH...

SFX: SU...
He played that because he was predicting this board?!!
I get it now ...!!
So that -3-9 Gin was
3-6 Kaku .....!!

I never anticipated he'd read this far ahead.

but

I was thinking 'He sure is taking a while...'

In an instant, I felt a sensation

like a gigantic fish was slipping by me.

—You cannot get carried away by this!

The tide is changing.

Calm down!!

SFX: PASHIH
PASHIH
SFX: PASHIH
SFX: KARAN...
Kiriyama's formation is in disorder.
But
I lost a kei... that hurts.
Okay,
what do I do now?

SFX: SUH...
— Now he's...
organizing his formation...?

This sensation... I remember it.
— That's right.

It's from the first time I went up against Souya back in C2.

A huge
ferocious yet beautiful creature
slipped by C2 and C1 in an instant.
Even though I was a creature that swam, too,
he felt like he a fish, not a human.
He was on a whole different plane of existence.
— I couldn't help but feel 'There was really nothing I could do against this guy.'

— I
If I'd let that end with me drowning back then
The first time I touched a shogi piece was when I was 6 years old.
Four
I couldn't pretend it didn't hurt
wouldn't be playing shogi for 40 years!!

3-6
Kei……
……M

I decided I can't worry too much.
—But
On days I lose, I'm introspective.
On days I win, I'm really happy.
—This sea is still vast.
And there will be plenty of other days.
Chapter 101 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU
4

ARE THERE SHOGI PLAYERS THAT GET BETTER GRADUALLY?

I learned shogi when I was 6 years old and I entered the Shoureikai when I was 10 years old. In those 4 years, I can state with certainty that I didn't improve at a constant rate. I got a lot better really fast from ages 7 to 8. In concrete terms, I went from amateur 5-kyuu to 4-dan. Very short periods of spectacular improvement are very much found at the pro level. Shogi is a game of logic, so gradually improving step by step is much more common than this sort of rapid burst of improvement, but when I look at examples of shogi players, they sometimes seem to grasp a sense of something. Perhaps you could call this talent.

So you make it through the severe world of the Shoureikai and make it to working as a shogi player. But really, that's where the battle actually begins. If you win, you're in heaven. Your mood couldn't be higher and your bank account sings. If you lose, it's hell. You feel awful and your wallet is empty. And the days of those swamp-like battles continue on and on.

When you become a shogi player, you don't have the periods of of improvement you had as a kid that came as natural as bamboo growing. After all, you've already acquired tons of techniques so there's not much higher to go. All you can do is improve little by little. So normally the most vital methods for accomplishing that are studying, research, and practice. But there are those that do that that get better, and those that do that and do not. Why...? I don't know. I really can't give any answer but that.

However, there are also players that completely transform without warning. I believe that up to age 30, everyone has the potential for that. At some point, you just start winning rapidly. Even if that's what it looks to amateurs, pro players working in the same industry know a lot about potential, so they frequently aren't surprised.

I think probably, players in those periods find a harmony between technique and spirit and that comes out in their moves... a bit hard to understand, isn't it? Yes, it's a pretty hard world to understand. To supplement that, the game of shogi is a science, and matches are one of the humanities. Something hard to pinpoint, something like fighting spirit, is an important element in deciding wins and losses. So I feel that when your humanities brain and science brain are in sync with each other, you win like crazy.

Now then, after age 30, or at a certain set age, you barely have these explosive win streaks anymore. Still, you need to get better or you won't be able to stand a chance against younger players. This rides on daily studying and stamina. Stamina is important among all else. Tenacity is vital to matches, but stamina is indispensable for keeping up that tenacity. Your mind and body are one. But... oh, it's so difficult. Since the number of various things outside of shogi increase.

Senzaki Manabu is 44 years old. That's a difficult age, but he's still giving it his all. He solves mating shogi puzzles, he goes to study groups, he hits punching bags to keep his body sharp, and he has the determination to keep winning and winning.

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March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

HI WA MATA NOBORU

THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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